

Captain Silas Jones House
5 Orange Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-956

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10-NANT
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

CAPTAIN SILAS JONES HOUSE

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Location: 5 Orange Street (on west side), Nantucket,
Massachusetts

Present Owner: Mr. George M. Durant

Present Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. Durant

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement
of Significance:

One of the few gambrel roof houses on Nantucket, it is one of three houses originally built with brick ends and frame side walls; remodelled and street elevation bricked, it is an example of the Federal style on Nantucket.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house was built by Captain Silas Jones about 1774. His son, Daniel Jones, occupied it for many years and it became known as the Daniel Jones House. By his will, 1848, Daniel Jones left his homestead to his wife, Eliza. She died in 1851 and by will left half of her estate to her daughter, Lydia Winslow, and the other half in trust for the benefit of her grandchildren, whose guardian was Philip H. Folger, owner of the brick mansion nearby on the corner of Orange and Main Streets. In Eliza Jones's inventory, 1851, the house and land with outbuildings was valued at \$3,000. By 1869 the Winslows, Charles and Lydia (husband and wife), had acquired the interest of the other heirs and in 1870 sold the property to Charles H. Dunham, a butcher. Later owners were:

1880	--	Frederick S. Raymond.
1884	--	Sarah C. Raymond.
1926	---	William F. Codd under will of Sarah C. Raymond.
1926	--	Charles E. and Anne R. Congdon.
1947	---	Robert D. and Allen R. Congdon.
1959	--	John and Anne H. Macrae.
1963	--	to date, George M. Durant.

(Abstract, Records Town of Nantucket)
2. Date of erection: Tradition and historians have set many different dates in the last quarter of the eighteenth century

for the building of this house. Actually, it was built by Captain Silas Jones between 1770 and 1774 -- probably in 1774, a year after he married Judith Gardner. (Abstract, Correspondence in Nantucket Historical Association files)

3. Architect: Unknown
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: As originally built this house had brick ends while the back and front were of wood. It is more pretentious than most of the houses erected earlier, for in addition to the building material, there are five bays across the front and four chimneys, two at each end wall penetrating upper slope of gambrel roof. The house has a central doorway with glazed sidelights at the door. (Abstract, A Mirror of Nantucket by George Allen Fowlkes)

The plan is the central hall type with two rooms on either side, each with a fireplace on the outside wall.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: Structural evidence indicates that the front elevation was bricked over in the 1830's and the house was remodelled at that time with Federal style details. At this time, also, the ell may have been added at the rear. On the Nantucket Map of 1834 the house is indicated as brick.

In recent years the house next south was purchased and torn down, making room for the gardens and lawn now on the south side of the house.

The house was extensively remodelled in the 1930's.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The house was on the fringe of the Great Fire of 1846 and actually helped to stop its devastating progress because of its brick ends. While Orange Street was laid out as early as 1726, more of its old houses have been taken down than any street in the town.

Silas Jones, who built the house, and his son, Daniel, were men of substance and some standing in Nantucket. Mrs. Daniel Jones is believed to have been a Quakeress, although the house was handsomely furnished with many costly items from the Orient.

- C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: old photograph in Nantucket Illustrated by A. Witteman, New York: The Albertype Co., 1888; house is shown on Street Map of Nantucket, 1834.

2. Bibliography:

Crosby, Everett Uberto. Ninety-Five Percent Perfect.
Nantucket: Tetaukimmo Press, 1953.

Duprey, Kenneth. Old Houses on Nantucket. New York:
Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1959.

Fowlkes, George Allen. A Mirror of Nantucket. New Jersey:
Press of Interstate, 1959.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
July, 1965

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. They are part of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, August 1971.